

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 09284 251222 Z

61

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 036559

R 251025 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2205

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9284

EXDIS

E. O. 11652 GDS

TSGS: PINTS, VS

SUBJECT: ICCS V INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED U. S. BOMBING

DEPARTMENT PLEASE TRANSMIT TO CINCPAC AND
COMUSSAG

FOLLOWING MSG REC FROM AMCONSUL BIEN HOA ON MAY 25 ACTION
EMBASSY SAIGON REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 0147

EXDIS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJ: ICCS V INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED US BOMBING

REFS: BIEN HOA 138 AND 143

1. GVN TWO- PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC) REGION V
REPRESENTATIVE TOLD CONSUL MAY 24 THAT PRG CHARGE OF ALLEGED
US BOMBING IN NORTHERN BINH LONG, INVESTIGATED BY ICCS V
MAY 23, WAS SHABBILY CONTRIVED COMMUNIST ATTEMPT TO GET
CONDEMNATION OF AMERICANS. GVN ACCOUNT WAS BASED ON THAT OF
GVN TPJMC V REPRESENTATIVES WHO WENT ALONG ON INVESTIGATION
AS LIAISON OFFICERS, AND CANDEL WHO PARTICIPATED IN INVESTIGA-
TION (AND WHO WAS OUR SOURCE IN REFTELS). THIS ACCOUNT IS
MORE EXTENSIVE THAN, BUT CONSISTENT WITH, WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY
REPORTED.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 09284 251222 Z

WM FRICTION BETWEEN POLGARIANS AND CANDEL, WHO WAS REGION V CHAIRMAN THIS WEEK, BEGAN EARLY IN INVESTIGATION WHEN POLDEL CHAIRMAN PRODUCED LIST OF SEVEN ALLEGED BOMBING SITES TO BE INVESTIGATED (IN CONTRAST TO INITIAL COMMUNIST CLAIM THAT ONLY A SINGLE SITE WAS BOMBED). CANDEL AND GVN/ TPJMC OFFICERS OBJECTED AND COMMUNISTS BACKED OFF.

3. ON ARRIVING IN LOC NINH, PARTY WAS MET BY A PRG MAJOR AND STAFF RIDING IN THREE CHINESE JEEPS, ONE CAPTURED GMC TRUCK, AND TWO HONDAS. PRG IMMEDIATELY DEMANDED THAT CANADIAN CHAIRMAN REFUSE PERMISSION TO GVN LIAISON OFFICERS TO ACCOMPANY INVESTIGATION, SINCE ICCS WAS INVESTIGATING ALLEGED VIOLATION AND TVN WAS NOT INVOLVED. CANADIAN DISAGREED. PRG MAJOR THZS CLAIMED HE HAD NO AUTHORITY TO APPROVE GVN LIAISON OFFICER PARTICIPATION, AND SUGGESTED FURTHER DISCUSSION BETWEEN ICCS AND LOCAL PRG " CHAIRMAN" OR DISTRICT CHIEF. ICCS LEFT GVN LIAISON OFFICERS AT AIRPORT WITH ONE CANADIAN OFFICER AND WENT TO MEETING WITH PRG, BUT AFTER MEETING WITH LATTER, ICCS WAS CONDUCTED DIRECTLY TO SITES OF ALLEGED US BOMBING. (COMMENT: CONSUL SENSED THAT GVN WAS UNHAPPY AND EMBARRASSED BY FAILURE OF CANADIANS AND INDONESIANS TO MAKE STRONGER AND MORE EFFECTIVE PROTEST AGAINST THIS COMMUNIST TACTIC. END COMMENT.)

4. PRG SHOWED THREE SITES TO ICCS(*

A. AN OLD VEHICLE WHICH, OUR GVN SOURCE WAS TOLD BY CANDEL CHIEF, WAS PROBABLY DAMAGED IN FIGHTING FOR LOC NINH LAST YEAR, BUT WHICH PRG CLAIMED WAS RECENTLY ROCKETED BY 20 MM ROCKETS FROM A US F-4.

B. A RESIDENTIAL AGEA WHERE OBVIOUSLY OLD CRATERS WERE PASSED OFF AS RESULT OF RECENT US BOMBING WHICH ALLEGEDLY KILLED 34 PEOPLE.

C. A HOSPITAL WHERE ICCS HAD CHANCE TO QUESTION WITNESSES TO ALLEGED BOMBING, WHO HOWEVER WERE UNABLE TO DESCRIBE HOW THEY WERE WOUNDED.

5. GVN SOURCE SAID CANDEL CHIEF TOLD HIM WHOLE THING WAS SHABBY PRG PUT- UP JOB, AND PROMISED TO PROVIDE HIM WITH COPY OF CANDEL REPORT ON INCIDENT. OUR SOURCE THOUGHT ICCS V WOULD SPLIT 2-2 ON REPORT.

6. GVN SOURCE OFFERED FOLLOWING MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS:

A. IN LOC NINH, PRG ALSO CLAIMED A NEW US VIOLATION, AN ALLEGED PHOTO RECONNAISSANCE MISSION OVER XA MAT, TAY NINH.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 09284 251222 Z

IT WAS UNCLEAR WHETHER A FORMAL COMPLAINT WOULD BE MADE, OR WHAT EVIDENCE COULD BE OFFERED.

B. HE FELT PERSONALLY THAT AS A RESULT OF HAK- THO TALKS,

PRG TPJMC CONTINGENT WOULD DEPLOY TO FIELD IN JUNE, PERHAPS
FIRST TO MR 4. PRG WOULD WAIT UNTIL THEY FOUND SOMEONE AS
CLEVER AS HIMSELF BEFORE DEPGYING TO MR 3 (TRUCE REGION V).

C. ONE OF THREE CANADIAN " JOURNALISTS" ALONG ON INVESTIGATION
WAS ACTUALLY ICCS VII CANDEL CHIEF MANFRED VON NOSTITZ.
WALKINSHA
WHITEHOUSE

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED.

CONFIDENTIAL
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON09284
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730553/aaaajscq.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <09-Oct-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980304
Subject: ICCS V INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED U. S. BOMBING
TAGS: PINT, VS, n/a
To: JEC PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
SS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005